

Remarks

The new claims do not add any new matter to the application as filed. With respect to all amendments and canceled claims, Applicants have not dedicated or abandoned any unclaimed subject matter. Moreover, Applicants have not acquiesced to any characterizations of the invention, nor any rejections or objections of the claims, made by the Examiner.

Summary of the Office Action Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-28, 30, 43-49, and 51-53, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Stewart (US Patent 6,389,112) in view of Lindholm (US Patent 6,477,207).

Claims 31-39, 41 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stewart (US Patent 6,389,112) in view of Lindholm (US Patent 6,477,207) and McNamara (US Patent 5,974,139).

Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stewart (US Patent 6,389,112) in view of Lindholm (US Patent 6,477,207) and Ditmer (US Patent 6,490,620).

Claims 40 and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stewart (US Patent 6,389,112) in view of Lindholm (US Patent 6,477,207) and McNamara (US Patent 5,974,139) and further in view of Ditmer (US Patent 6,490,620).

Applicants' Arguments in Response to Claim Rejections

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's current and past rejections with respect to this application. However, in the interest of advancing prosecution, Applicants have canceled most of the claims including the pending independent claims and added new independent claims with a request for continued examination.

The references cited so far do not anticipate or make obvious the features of the new claims and their dependent claims. Thus, all the claims are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in a condition for allowance. However, should the Examiner believe that the claims are not in condition for allowance, the Applicant encourages the Examiner to call the undersigned attorney at 650-843-7559 to set up an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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